Bridge in the Manali river at Trikkur.

35. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether budget sanction was obtained for the construction of a bridge in the Manali river at Trikkur;

(2) if so, whether tenders were called for the work;

(3) whose tender was accepted and when;

(4) whether the contractor has executed any kychit for the proper working of the bridge;

(5) when was the actual work begun by the contractor;

(6) was the contractor asked to suspend the work;

(7) if so, by whom and for what reasons;

(8) when were orders given for the restarting of the work;

(9) has the contractor started the work;

(10) how far has the work progressed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Mr. N. O. Inasu's tender. On 19—2—35/7—7—10.

(4) Yes.

(5) The contractor started work in Feburary 1935.

(6) Yes.

(7) By the Government. There were petitions for changing the site of the bridge.

(8) 23—5—35/9—10—10.

(9) Yes.

(10) The progress up to the end of Edavam 1110 is that R. C. curb for one well was cast and materials for masonry work were being collected.

Underfed condition of the masses.

36. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether they are aware that the masses of the people of the State are underfed;

(2) if so, what action, if any, have they taken to find food for them?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(1) No.

(2) Does not arise.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Has the Government opened its eyes when they went round and made enquiries as to the conditions of the masses?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—What I mean to say is that we are not in a position to officially announce that the masses are not underfed. I may say here as well as elsewhere masses are underfed.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—In that case you should be actually feeling that it is taking place here now.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I am afraid I am not able to do it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—That is a fundamental issue which is closely related with the very life of this question. Should not that be looked into before answering this question?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It is a matter of opinion. I may say I have no ability to find it out.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether it was not incumbent on the Hon'ble Member for Revenue to find out what is the actual feeding that is taking place?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—You mean how the actual feeding is taking place!

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it an irresponsible Government?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will they propose any action to remove this state of affairs?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I did not attempt. The masses here as well as elsewhere are underfed.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen.—May I know whether the masses in the State are well fed?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I have not official statistics to say either they are underfed or well fed.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen.—Are there enquiries going on to find this out?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Yes. The Economic Survey which has to go into the questions of methods of living, revenue, etc. of the people.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then why could not the Government say that the matter is officially put to the Economic Survey instead of answering in this haphazard way?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—My answer will always depend upon the questions put.

Mr. V. K. K. Menon—Confirmation of.

37. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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